

University of Twente, ITC Faculty

STARS

Publications Policy





SPURRING A
TRANSFORMATION FOR
AGRICULTURE THROUGH
REMOTE SENSING

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PUBLICATIONS POLICY

GENERAL

The overarching goal of the STARS Publications Policy is to disseminate STARS results to a wider audience of researchers in the domain of applying remote sensing to smallholder agriculture, to potential early adopters in this domain, and to donors with an interest for such technology and application. STARS results will include findings around data acquisition, methods and techniques, specifically also algorithmic approaches, but also findings around possible uptake, and barriers to uptake, of the technology.

The STARS Publications Policy outlines our processes and standards for publication sharing, access, and authorship within the STARS project. It sets an agreement framework, not a regulatory framework, and so it provides for flexibility. The policy is developed to support the project objectives to fill a data and knowledge gap around the use of RS technology for monitoring smallholder agricultural production systems. It supports the creation of global public goods in the form of standardized field data protocols, time-dependent crop spectra, and accompanying image analysis algorithms.

The STARS Publications Policy aims to provide proper conditions for the optimal dissemination of research results by its partners, obtained in the context of STARS. We expect results in the form of quantitative field measurements, UAV-based images, RS-based data products, a crop spectrotemporal signature library, and analytical tools to work with these data sources, to help monitor crop development through the growing season as well as products that, in one stated context, aim to assess the available surface water for irrigation. This policy is designed to optimize exposure to a) the research community in remote sensing as applied to agronomy, specifically in context of smallholder farming; and b) to the community of stakeholders that may consider bringing these results into practice. The Publications Policy is consistent with the related STARS Data Access and Use Policy, which aims to provide access for third parties to data produced by STARS.

TERMS

- Project Documents** A report authored by one of more STARS affiliated staff, produced to meet a requirement under the STARS grant. Project documents which are products of the project, such as policies and strategy documents, will be made publically available.
- Technical Report** A report authored by one of more STARS affiliated staff, derived from work executed under the STARS grant. STARS Technical Reports are made publicly available, whenever possible, i.e., when no conflicts of interests arise for STARS Project Partners.
- Scientific Publication** Any document submitted to a professional journal, periodical, book, conference or workshop, with the intent to be published as a scientific contribution. Scientific presentations and posters are specifically included under this definition.
- Author** The first author to a STARS report or publication. This can incidentally be a team of STARS collaborators.
- Co-author** Any other author to a STARS report or publication that is not its first author.



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Project Partner A STARS project partner as designated in the grant or any partner included in STARS (transitively) as a subgrantee or subcontractor.

Project Coordinator ITC, the STARS project team

CONDITIONS OF PUBLICATION

PUBLICATION PROCESS

Each Deliverable Report and Technical Report is created through an iterative and collaborative process. After agreement among all co-authors on the final report, the first author is responsible for submitting it to the Project Coordinator for review. Authoring and submission cycles adhere to the agreed-upon collaboration protocols for processes and timelines. STARS will post all reports to its website, even when they are also public elsewhere externally.

All STARS Project Partners are expected to produce a plan for publications, especially journal publications, and to share these plans at the STARS General Project meetings. These sessions and plans contribute synchronization between partners and foster collaboration.

AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Author responsibilities are established to uphold STARS standards of high-quality publications and research efforts. The policy supports collaborative work. Nothing in this policy is intended to deny standard scientific practices around publications.

Specifically, every individual who has made a substantial intellectual, scientific or practical contribution to the work leading to the manuscript should be credited as (co-)author. We strongly encourage publications resulting from collaboration between at least three Project Partners.

Upon submission of drafts and final versions, the first author ensures full delivery of the publication metadata, for which a form will be provided.

First authors are expected to ensure that all Deliverable Reports and Technical Reports carry the STARS logo. They may also include the logos of the affiliated authors' and co-authors' institutions. Formats may utilize standards of the first author's institute or the STARS report format.

PRIORITIES

This policy commits the STARS project to openly share all project reports and scientific publications and to aim to reach the widest audience with these products. Public release of documents adheres to the following procedures:

- Technical Report: After review and acceptance by the Project Coordinator, the report will be made publically available on the STARS website within two months.
- Scientific Publications: We aim to publish STARS work in peer-reviewed, Open Access channels, where these are available. This includes journals, conference or workshop proceedings (or posters), or book chapter contributions. The publication format will typically be determined by those venues.

We consider a publication to be of the "Open Access" type, if it is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Generic License or under another equivalent license. Wherever feasible, we will publish in accordance



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with the Gates Foundation Open Access Policy, although we are not required to do so given that our grant began prior to the release of the policy.

DISCOVERABILITY

Any STARS Technical Report or Scientific Publication will be entered into the Knowledge Portal on the STARS website with associated metadata to ensure discoverability. The metadata includes at least the title, keywords, the author list, and a point of contact, if different from the first author. All first authors will have an entry in the STARS website address list. The STARS website provides a list of candidate keywords to be used.

AVAILABILITY

STARS Publications are made available as soon as possible after the internal and/or external review process has successfully finished, and within no more than two months.

PUBLICATION BUDGET

The STARS project strongly encourages publication in Open Access channels. Where authors comply with the [Gates Foundation Open Access Policy](#), associated costs for open access venues will be covered by the foundation as described in the policy.

Furthermore, when STARS partners publish in open access channels, the First Author is expected to make the data underlying the publication publically available through the STARS website, with the possible exception of satellite images for which licensing and legal restrictions do not allow.

ATTRIBUTION

Scientific Publications resulting from the STARS project are expected to attribute the project in the Acknowledgments section of the publication. The following text is suggested:

“This publication was made possible (in part) by the STARS project, an integrated effort to improve our understanding of the use of remote sensing technology in monitoring smallholder farming. See www.stars-project.org.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information can be found on the STARS project website at www.stars-project.org, and STARS can be reached by email at <mailto:contact@stars-project.org>. For more information regarding the Gates Foundation Open Access Policy, please visit <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Open-Access-Policy> or contact openaccess@gatesfoundation.org.